PHASE II STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Stormwater discharges in the Town of Abington are regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Stormwater Permit Program. Under this program, Abington was required to obtain NPDES permit coverage under the 2016 "General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s)" for its stormwater discharges. This permit program was created with the intention of improving the quality of the nation's waterways by reducing pollutant loads associated with stormwater runoff. Under this permit, Abington is required to develop and implement a Notice of Intent (NOI) and Stormwater Management Program (SWMP), which identifies Best Management Practices (BMPs) the Town will implement to address the following six "minimum control measures (MCMs)":

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Participation and Involvement
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Runoff Control
6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

Abington submitted its Notice of Intent (NOI) to EPA and MassDEP in September 2018 to meet permit requirements which summarized Abington's proposed SWMP to comply with the permit, which is detailed further in Abington's written SWMP Plan originally prepared in June 2019 with updates ongoing. Abington submits Annual Reports to EPA and MassDEP by September 30th of each year summarizing the progress of its SWMP. The NOI and Annual reports are available on EPA's website.

Click the links below to learn more about stormwater management in Abington.

- What is Stormwater?
- Resources for Residents
- Resources for Commercial and Businesses
- Resources for Developers and Site Operators
- Resources for Industrial Facilities

Other Resources

- EPA NPDES MS4 Information
- Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook and Standards
- MAPC's Low Impact Development Toolkit
- Cape Cod Commission's Stormwater Website
- Think Blue Massachusetts

What Is Stormwater?

Stormwater runoff is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. In a natural environment, stormwater will be filtered by the soil and not pose a threat to the quality of nearby waters. In a developed environment, stormwater can become polluted when it runs over streets, lawns, farms, and construction sites as it picks up pollutants such as dirt, oil, nutrients, sediments, pesticides, and bacteria. If untreated, stormwater can cause water quality impairments when it flows into our lakes and rivers.

Stormwater and the pollutants it may carry can have negative impacts on Abington's receiving water bodies, threatening the quality of their use for shellfishing, swimming, fishing, boating and drinking water. Proper management of stormwater runoff will help ensure these water resources can be enjoyed by future generations.

Pollutant sources related to stormwater runoff are discussed below.

- **Impervious surfaces** such as roads, driveways, decks, and even compacted soils, change the way the water flows over and through the land. They prevent stormwater from soaking into the ground, which increases the volume of stormwater runoff that needs to be managed by the Town. Unmanaged stormwater runoff contributes to flooding, stream bank erosion, and reduced groundwater recharge.

- **Erosion** is the gradual wearing away of land by water, wind, or ice. During construction, land can be disturbed by excavation, filling, and paving. This can increase erosion by exposing the soil to stormwater. Nutrients such as phosphorus have the ability to "stick" to soil and can be transported to lakes and rivers.

- **Fertilizer, pet waste, and septic systems** can contribute excess nutrients that speed up plant and algae growth, including cyanobacteria, which can harm humans and animals and can be a nuisance for swimming and boating. They can also contribute bacteria that can make swimmers sick and lead to beach closures.

- **Other pollutant sources** that may contaminate stormwater runoff include salt and deicing materials, lawn and agricultural pesticides, and automobile chemicals among others. Many of the chemicals in these products may be toxic to aquatic organisms, humans, and other animals.

Resources for Residents

The Town of Abington is doing its part to manage stormwater. However, everyone living in Abington can help manage stormwater and prevent water pollution. The following practices will help reduce the volume of stormwater created and help prevent pollutants from coming in contact with stormwater. Click the links below to learn more!

- **Only rain down the drain -** never dump anything down a storm drain. Anything dumped down a storm drain, such as chemicals, oil, etc. will eventually end up in a local waterbody.
- **Reduce the amount of runoff from your property –** plant rain gardens, reduce the amount of impervious surfaces, or install a rain barrel. Learn more!
- **Disconnect roof leaders** – direct roof leaders onto pervious surfaces and away from walkways and driveways so that stormwater can infiltrate into the ground. Better yet, build a raingarden!
- **Pick up pet waste** and flush it down the toilet. Learn more!
- **Take care of your septic system** – have your septic tank pumped and inspected at least once every two or three years. Plant only grass over your drainfield to avoid damage from roots and do not park or drive on it. Only put washwater and wastewater down the drain. Don't dump excessive chemicals, medications, food or household products into your system. Learn more!
- **Practice good lawncare techniques –** leave lawn clippings on the ground, as they decay, they provide a natural fertilizer to the ground. Piles of old grass clippings can cause nutrients and bacteria to enter waterbodies. Clean up leaves in the fall to keep them out of waterbodies. Learn more!
- Minimize water usage **to conserve water**. Create a compost pile or bin to use as localized **fertilizer** but keep it away from wetlands and waterbodies. Learn more!
- **Plant native and drought tolerant species** that require less water and **vegetate bare spots in your yard** to minimize erosion of soils into local waters.
- **Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly** to minimize water quality impacts. Fertilizers contain nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen that can cause too much plant growth such as algae in waterbodies. This can lead to problems with boating, fishing, shellfish harvesting and swimming. Learn more!
- **Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface** to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain and/or waterbody. Learn more!
- **Proper handling of chemicals** – if you spill oil or other substances on a road or driveway, immediately clean up and properly dispose of materials. Learn more!
- **Take care with swimming pool water** – don't discharge into a storm drain or waterbody. If discharging onto the ground first dechlorinate water. Learn more!

Resources for Commercial and Businesses

The Town of Abington is doing its part to manage stormwater. However, everyone working in Abington can help manage stormwater and prevent water pollution. The following practices will help reduce the volume of stormwater created and help prevent pollutants from coming in contact with stormwater. Click the links below to learn more!

- **Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly** to minimize water quality impacts. Fertilizers contain nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen that can cause too much plant growth such as algae in waterbodies. This can lead to problems with boating, fishing, shellfish harvesting and swimming. Learn more!
- **Practice good lawncare techniques –** leave lawn clippings on the ground, as they decay, they provide a natural fertilizer to the ground. Piles of old grass clippings can cause nutrients and bacteria to enter waterbodies. Clean up leaves in the fall to keep them out of waterbodies. Learn more!
- Minimize water usage **to conserve water**. Create a compost pile or bin to use as localized **fertilizer** but keep it away from wetlands and waterbodies. Learn more!
- **Manage winter salt application and storage.** Cover stockpiles of salt for use in winter road maintenance. Limit the amount of salt applied. Sweep and properly dispose of any visible salt deposits once the application surface or storage area has dried. Learn more!
- Practice **proper building maintenance** – do not use detergent if possible, or use only the smallest amount necessary for the job. Try to minimize or prevent wash water from entering the drainage system or a waterbody.
- **Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface** to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain and/or waterbody. Learn more!
- **Take care with swimming pool water** – don't discharge into a storm drain or waterbody. If discharging onto the ground first dechlorinate water. Learn more!
- **Encourage infiltration** by installing infiltration-based features such as rain gardens and bioswales.
- **Sweep paved roads, parking lots, and storage areas** with a type of vacuum sweeper that incorporates HEPA filtration or other high efficiency method of filtration of the exhaust air from the sweeper to trap the very fine metallic particles found in road or parking lot dust reduce these discharges to storm water.